

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 30, with the following amended paragraph:

--Referring now to Figs. 6 and 7, two alternative embodiments are shown which differ from Fig. 1 only in the timing of attaching the elastic bands 44 and 46 relative to the securement of the absorbent assembly 104 to the first and second webs, 12 and 14 respectively. The apparatus and webs shown in Figs. 6 and 7 have been described using the same numerals as were used in Fig. 1, for the purpose of clarity. In Fig. 6, at least one of the elastic bands 44 and 46, and desirably both elastic bands 44 and 46, are attached to the second and first webs, 14 and 12 respectively, at the same time as the absorbent assembly 104 is secured to the first and second webs 12 and 14 respectively. As noted above, the first web 12 forms the front panel 20 while the second web 14 forms the back panel 32. This simultaneous attachment may shorten the overall length of the equipment needed to perform the product assembly. --